

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VANCOU 00588 240041Z

70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-03

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FPC-01 H-03 INR-11 INT-08 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01 SCI-06

SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 FRB-03 FEA-02 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 DRC-01 /179 W

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R 240028Z SEP 74

FM AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1781

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS VANCOUVER 0588

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG

SUBJECT: B.C. GAS SALES TO U.S.

1. AT BELLINGHAM SYMPOSIUM ON CANADA-US RELATIONS
SEPTEMBER 21 B.C. PREMIER BARRETT STATED US WILL BEAR
ENTIRE ANTICIPATED GAS SHORTFALL THIS WINTER BUT THAT
B.C. WOULD TAKE STEPS MINIMIZE THAT SHORTFALL.

2. B.C. PETROLEUM CORPORATION CHAIRMAN RHODES, RECENTLY
APPOINTED TO BOARD B.C. HYDRO, EXPLAINED THAT HYDRO'S
THERMAL PLANT IN VANCOUVER WILL BURN ONLY BUNKER FUEL
INSTEAD OF GAS THIS WINTER THUS FREEING ABOUT 50 MILLION
CUBIC FEET OF GAS PER DAY FOR EXPORT. USING BUNKER FUEL
WILL COST DOLLARS 5 MILLION TO BE PAID BY B.C.
PETROLEUM CORP. BCPC ALSO ASKING HYDRO GAS CUSTOMERS TO
MAKE SWITCH FROM GAS TO BUNKER FUEL AND WILL SUBSIDIZE
THESE SWITCHOVERS. BCPC CONVINCED SUFFICIENT BUNKER FUEL
AVAILABLE THIS YEAR TO MAKE THIS POSSIBLE.

3. ON SHORTFALL ISSUE, BARRETT CLAIMS CONTRACT WITH
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PAGE 02 VANCOU 00588 240041Z

NORTHWEST CALLS FOR DELIVERY OF QUOTE UP TO UNQUOTE 805

MILLION CUBIC FEET DAILY. PASSING SHORTFALL ON TO
WASHINGTON THUS NOT CONTRACT VIOLATION. WASHINGTON
STATE GOVERNOR EVANS, SPEAKING AT SAME MEETING, ARGUED
THAT SHORTFALL OUGHT TO BE SHARED AND SUGGESTED THAT
BARRETT'S INTERPRETATION SHOULD ALLOW WASHINGTON TO BE
CONSIDERED AN QUOTE INTERRUPTIBLE UNQUOTE CUSTOMER
QUALIFYING FOR LOWER GAS RATES. HE ADDED HOWEVER THAT
WASHINGTON DID NOT WANT TO BE CONSIDERED AN INTERRUPTIBLE
CUSTOMER AND HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION BARRETT'S GOAL
TO REDUCE SHORTFALL. HE ALSO CALLED FOR JOINT EFFORTS TO
ENSURE ADEQUATE SEARCH FOR NEW SUPPLIES. BCPC UNCERTAIN
AS TO WHETHER NORTHWEST PIPELINE WILL BRING CONTRACT
DESPUTE TO COURT.
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